

THE PARISH OF THAMES

Welcomes you to

ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday, 8th December, 2019

2nd Sunday Of Advent

"Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is **HOPE** and this the second candle is **PEACE**.

The candle is lit.

Colossians 3:15 – "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to peace."

Prayer: "Almighty God, You offer rest for our hearts and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace." **Amen.**"

Opening Hymn: Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of His train.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold Him,
pierced, and nailed Him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion still His dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to His ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yes, Amen! Let all adore Thee, high on Thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for Thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707-88) & John Cennick (1718-55) A & M 28

Opening Prayer

Into this season of expectation,
into the bustle of our lives and the hard to find moments of solitude,
into our homes and situations along with friends and families,
into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our lives,
we prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, **Messiah.**

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Please sit or kneel

We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do
as members of Christ's body.

Silence

In God there is forgiveness.

Loving and all seeing God,

forgive us where we have failed to serve You;

and where our thoughts and actions have been contrary to Yours

we ask Your pardon.

God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence

We shall all be one in Christ, one in our life together.

Praise to God who has created us,

praise to God who has accepted us,

praise to God who sends us into the world.

Sentence of the Day

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and
believe in the good news.

Mark 1:15

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,

**You sent Your servant John the Baptist to prepare the way for the
coming of Your Son; grant that those who proclaim Your word**

**may so guide our feet into the way of peace, that we may stand with
confidence before Him when He comes in His glorious Kingdom;**

through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer.

Amen.

The Branch From Jesse

11:1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from His roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD - and He will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19

72:1 Endow the king with Your justice, O God, the royal Son with Your righteousness.

May He judge Your people in righteousness, Your afflicted ones with justice.

May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

May He defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may He crush the oppressor.

May He endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

May He be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

7 In His days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous deeds.

¹⁹ Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

2nd Reading: Romans 15:1-13

Read by Paul Jennings

15:1 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please Himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on Me."

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of Your name."

Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with His people."

And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol Him."

And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in Him the Gentiles will hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn: Where Is The Room

Where is the room? Where is the house of Christmas?

Where shall we welcome Jesus? Where are the signs of home?

Where are the signs of home?

Let Christ have space, place at the heart of living,
centre for birth's new breathing, cradle for hope and peace,
cradle for hope and peace.

Let there be room, room for the friend and stranger,
room without hurt or anger, room for whoever come,
room for whoever come.

Let love be here, love from the Christmas stable,
love at our open table, love to be shared all year,
love to be shared all year.

Words © Shirley Murray © New Zealand Hymnbook Trust AA 154

3rd Reading: Matthew 3:1-13

Read by Winnie Sheehan

Praise and Glory to God

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3:1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is He who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'" John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes One who is more powerful than I, Whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor, gathering His wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

This is the gospel of Christ

Praise to Christ, the Word

Sermon:

Brought to us by The Rev'd Peter Philip

“Those of us with a strong faith need to take extra care of those whose faith is weaker. We can't just do as we please, but should always seek to build one another up. That's what Jesus did, even accepting the abuse of those who hated God. Look to Scripture: it's all written to encourage us to keep going, and to give us hope for the future.

May God help you to keep going and encourage you, uniting your hearts and minds as followers of Jesus, so that you can glorify God His Father as one. Accept one another, just as Jesus accepted you.

Romans 15: 1-7, from the paraphrased New Testament, "WHO?" by Paul Langham, published by The Bible Society UK, 2012.

Intercessions:

Given through Margaret MacKay

Offertory Hymn: Come As You Are

Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to My heart, loved and forgiven,
come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never fails.
Don't run away, shamed and disheartened,
rest in My love, trust Me again.

I came to call sinners not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by My promise
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust Me again.
Nothing will change the love that I bear you.
All will be well just come as you are. *Yllw Fldr*

Composer Unknown Grn Fldr

Communion

(prayer is available near the High altar during communion)

Closing Hymn: 10,000 Reasons

Chorus

*Bless the Lord O my soul,
Oh my soul worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before Oh my soul,
I'll worship His Holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
it's time to sing Your song again.
whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.
Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,
Your name is great and heart is kind,
for all Your goodness I will keep on singing,
then thousand reasons for my heart to find.
Chorus

And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come,
still my soul will sing Your praise unending,
ten thousand years and then for evermore.
Chorus

I'll worship His Holy name,
I'll worship His Holy name.

Composer - Matt Redman Ylw Fldr

Sending Forth: Go now to love and serve the Lord; go now in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Ministry Team, 8th December, 2019

Liturgist: Leslie Wilkinson **Server:** Margaret MacKay
Intercessor/Prayers: Stephen Williams **Organist:** Lynne Mounsey
President: The Rev'd Catherine Mackereth
Preacher: The Rev'd Peter Philip
Welcome Team: Winnie Sheehan, Lee Bisset
Morning Tea: Allan Judd, AnneMarie Hartley

Parish Community News

We extend a big welcome to our new Curate, The Rev'd Liam Philip, as he comes to serve the Living God in our midst. Welcome Liam!

Congregation—please stay and welcome Liam to St George's at our special morning tea after the service!

Prayer Needs

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5.

Please pray for this parish that we will remember Liam in our prayers as we welcome him into our midst, and that we will be an encouragement and help to him as he settles into this new area.

This week, 8th - 15th December, 2019

Tuesday 10th: Bible Study, 1pm at the home of Diane and Ian Buchanan, 9580 Paeroa-Kopu Rd, RD1, Thames. 868 4748.

Wednesday 11th: Selwyn Group, 9:30-12:00, Church Hall. All welcome.

Thursday 12th: Service at 10am Holy Communion (1662), St George's Chapel

Wednesday 25th December 12pm: A place at the Table Christmas Lunch.

Sunday, 15th December, 9:30

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Stephen Williams

Psalms: 146:5-10

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Diana Maher

3rd Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11

Alan Hartley

Preacher:

Pip Harry

President:

The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson

Liturgist:

Ruth Kowalewicz

Server:

Raewyn Grey

Music Ministry/organist:

Finlay Clements

Intercessions:

Denise Norris

Sanctuary Guild/Flowers:

Fiona Harden, Celia Newby

Morning Tea:

Denise Norris, Kate Jones

Welcome Team:

Steve Darwall, Rex Geary

Te Puru:

The Rev'd Lilian Barrett

Vicar: The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson.

Vicar's Warden: Kate Jones

Peoples Warden: Lynne Mounsey

Ph: (07) 868 6267 Mob: 021 556 710

Office hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, 9 am—1 pm

Email: vicar@thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz

Curate: curate@thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz; 027

Website: <http://www.thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz>